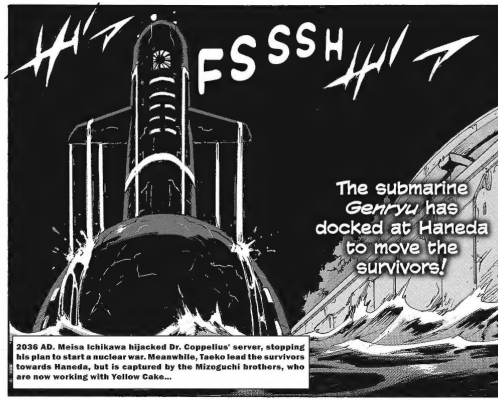
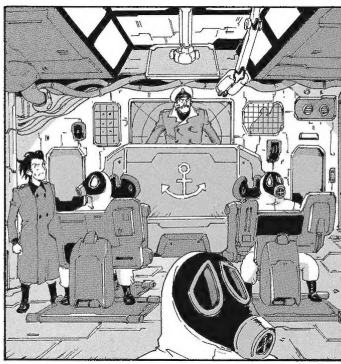
Near-Future
Science-Fiction
Action
Act 25
[Spiritual Vessel]
They weren't a normal parent and child,
but their time together was precious.
presented by
Tomonori Inoue



2036 AD. Meisa Ichikawa hijacked Dr. Coppelius' server, stopping his plan to start a nuclear war. Meanwhile, Taeko lead the survivors towards Haneda, but is captured by the Mizoguchi brothers, who are now working with Yellow Cake...



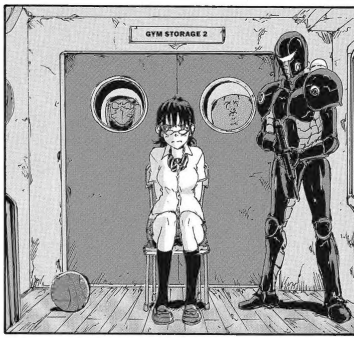
Ra-
diation
levels?
It's
Hane-
da.
...we
made it,
VP.
The ra-
diation
is com-
pletely
blocked!
Readings
within the
sub are
normal!
There's
not a
single
person
within
a one
kilometer
radius of
the sub.
PING
No
large life
forme
being
picked
up on
radar!
PING
Where
are the
survi-
vors?
Do
you see
anyone
out
there?
They still
haven't
made
it to
Haneda
Airport?!
Where
the
heck are
they?!
What
?!

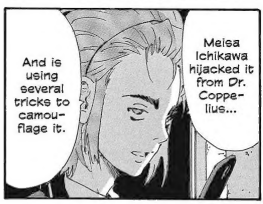
NARUSE!
That voice ...
Vice Principal Mishima! Did you make it to Haneda?
Yes!
Sorry for the delay.
Ohh! Is that the submarine?!
The good old *Genryu's* made it ta Tokyo!
We're saved!
How's Taeko ?!
Is everybody on the sub already?!

Where are the survivors, Naruse?
What's going on?
...
COME IN!
NARUSE!
Please stay on standby, VP!
...we'll meet you in Haneda!
Where could they have gone?!
The others didn't make it to Haneda?!

We need a car!
A car...
Should we head for Tama River?!
But—
Repre-sentative Ibara?!
How 'bout this van?
Where can we get one?!
TOWN
That won't start! It's been sitting there for twenty years!
They aaall got broke!
We could run there!
We'll run out of oxygen!
A car?!
SWISH
Any-body find one?!

Follow me.
I have extra gasoline.
Represen-tative.
Check the radiation levels outside.
Standby?
Isn't there anything we can do?
CLOP
CLOP
Damn it!

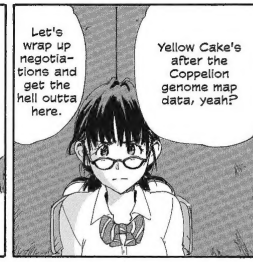

GYM STORAGE 2


Meisa Ichikawa hijacked it from Dr. Coppelius...
And is using several tricks to camouflage it.

Ryouga, Yellow Cake still can't manage to locate the old man's server?
Seems that way.

What the hell...
If we don't do something about her, we won't get paid.
ONF

Haven't you considered what they might use that data for?
You two... You're after money?


Let's wrap up negotiations and get the hell outta here.
Yellow Cake's after the Coppelion genome map data, yeah?

A guy's gotta get paid, ya know?
OMF

CHEW
CHEW

To continuously produce money. To give birth to a machine in perpetual motion. Those are their objectives.
Yellow Cake are *alchemists*.

Money's the law of the land.
Object all you like...
School's out for us, babe.

You don't need the survivors anymore!
Then please, let everyone go!
CLACK
They're not so dangerous.
They actually *want* to keep the world stable, even.
CLINK
Oh, it's not that cut and dry.
There's priceless data within their bodies, or whatever.
PSSH
Ex-cept ...
GULP GULP
Nobody said they need to be *alive*.
They've been living in a unique environment for twenty years...
Their cells will be extremely useful samples.
...
Wh...

So those humans? They're gonna run out of oxygen sooner or later. The end.
But they say we don't have any oxygen to spare for trash!
BSSH
I mean, I wish I could let them live and all...
It's out of our hands, ya know?
Ha ha ha ha!
Don't take it personally!

KYOTO—
Our administration will be secure ...
Once I sign this...
PRESS
SIGNATURE
THIS IS MISHIMA.
OUGAI.

CALLING FROM TOKYO, I PRESUME?
VICE PRIME MINISTER MA
I thought you weren't interested in politics.
What happened?
A vote of no-confidence was proposed?
THE PRIME MINISTER. YOU ABDUCTED HIM. IS HE WELL?
WARD
AH. YES.

CLANG
CLANG
The Prime Minister's gone!
VP!
KACHAK
There he is!
OMF
OMF
Your Excellency ?!
KITCHEN
KREE
KRCHF KRCHF
MUNCH MUNCH

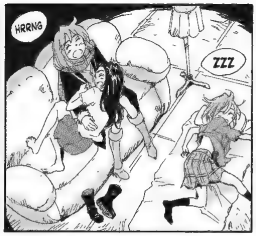
NOM
NOM
That's our food! We won't have anything for the ride back!
Ah! Stop it!
The PM ordered me to feed him...
S-Sir!
Are you in good health?
Your Excellency.
What's this shortie saying?
Huh? Election time?!
SLURP
SLURP
It's almost election time!
Best to eat up!
Oho! Mishima!
Is this because of us? ...hoo, boy...
SLURP
SLURP
Man... He's gotten worse. Now his memory's messed up.

OW! HE BIT MY FINGER!
LEG-GO!
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR YOU!
C'MON, PRIME MINISTER!
MISHI-MA.
Take care of His Excellency.
Bring him back to normal.
POP
...

Think you can get it working?

...the more simple its design.
The older the vehicle...

CLANK
CLANG

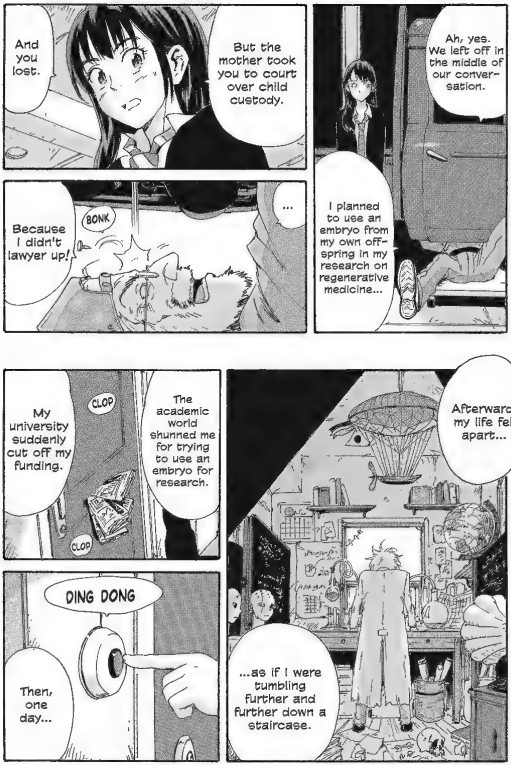

HRNG
ZZZ

CLANG
CREAK
CREAK

SWISH

You want to change the world...

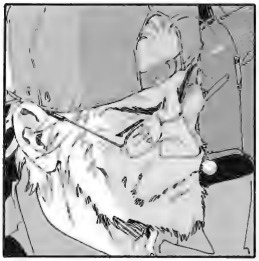
Because of your daughter Setsuna?
Did you start thinking that...


And you lost.
But the mother took you to court over child custody.
Because I didn't lawyer up!
BONK
...
I planned to use an embryo from my own offspring in my research on regenerative medicine...
Ah, yes. We left off in the middle of our conversation.
My university suddenly cut off my funding.
CLOP
CLOP
The academic world shunned me for trying to use an embryo for research.
DING DONG
Then, one day...
...as if I were tumbling further and further down a staircase.
Afterward, my life fell apart...

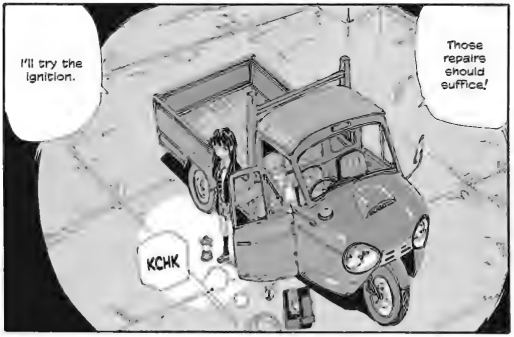
Something that had once been but an embryo had grown into a human and now stood before me.
I saw my daughter for the first time in five years.
KREE
Her mother... had abused her.
I, her biological father, was her only remaining relative.
That was how...
We began our strange life together as parent and child.

I'm quite accustomed to human imperfection.
ROLL
I wasn't angry with her mother.
So you took her in?
...
Sometimes they make mistakes. Like beating children...
Or starting foolish wars.
Humans are not machines, no matter how much you try to repair them.
...so that these tragedies will never strike again.
Humans must evolve...

SIGH
Though I believed the Coppelion to be perfect, they proved to be defective.
ROLL
But...
ROLL
I told her I could fix her bug...
But it was a lie.
CHEW CHEW
CHEW CHEW
BOOM BOOM
I'm responsible for the way Meiea has turned out.



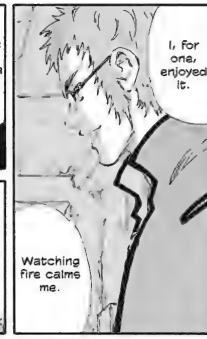
...behind our sudden deaths?
You can't solve the mystery...


I'll try the ignition.
Those repairs should suffice!
KCHK

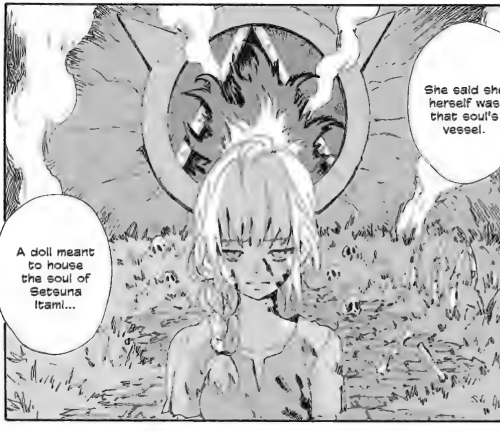
VRRRM
VRM
VRM
CHAK

CLANK
CLANK
Man...
CLANK
Wonder if she went and got herself killed?
CLANK
CLANK
Setsuna ...
Why'd she have to be so damn stubborn?
Tossing monster corpses ...
...into the incinerator, burning up even their bones...
We all survived that hellhole... Site-O.
...she's the same as us.

...making an offering for rebirth.
When we were small, Setsuna called it...


I, for one, enjoyed it.
Watching fire calms me.

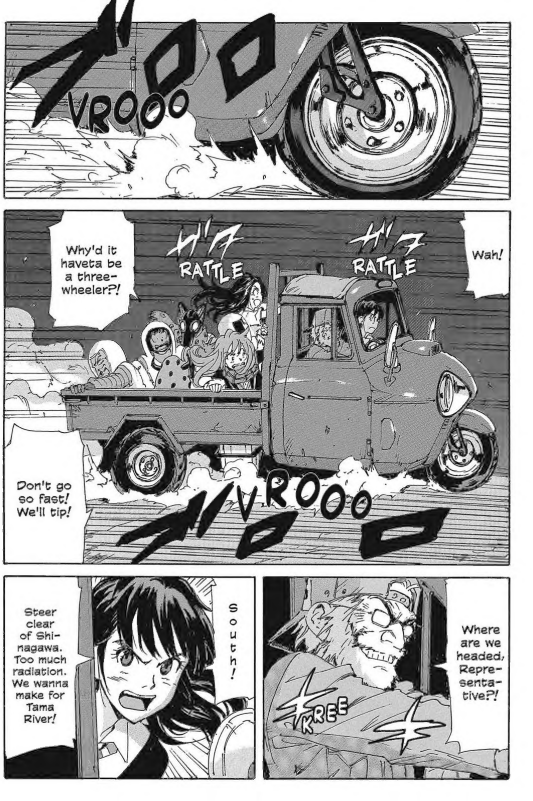
...and a soul can be resurrected from among the dead.
Offer up hundreds and thousands of deaths, and continuous prayer...


A doll meant to house the soul of Setsuna Itami...
She said she herself was that soul's vessel.

Not until she fulfills her purpose, at least.
...wouldn't die so easily.
TMP
TMP
KRAK
TUMP

I'll play with you.
You want me that badly, sweet cheeks?
...!
SLAP
Have you no shame?!
You brute!
Taeko!
Oh!
THUD

THIS IS YELLOW CAKE HQ!
WE CAN'T PINPOINT THE SERVER!
IF YOU WANT YOUR MONEY, TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM!
Let's go.
Change of plans.
...
Be a good girl and wait.
We'll finish this later.


VROOO
Why'd it havata be a three-wheeler?!
RATTLE
RATTLE
Wah!
Don't go so fast! We'll tip!
VROOO
Steer clear of Shinagawa. Too much radiation. We wanna make for Tama River!
South!
Where are we headed, Representative?!
SCREE

...
We don't have much oxygen left!
We need ta hurry ...
Take this thing as fast as it can go!
Whoa!
VROOM
The clock ticks down! What will Ibara do as the situation grows more dire...?!
to be continued...